

## Should I Register?

**The answer is “Yes” if you have no other place to go and need:**

- ✓ Assistance with medication
- ✓ Observation by a health professional
- ✓ Electricity for life supporting medical equipment
- ✓ Basic nursing care
- ✓ Oxygen therapy
- ✓ Assistance to evacuate

**Don't wait until there is an emergency**

Pre-registering will ensure you have a back-up plan. If you can stay with family or friends or at a hotel out of the emergency area, you should.

If you have no other sheltering option, *pre-register* and be prepared to go to the Special Needs Shelter. Please bring medical supplies and current medications to support your medical needs. Caregivers are encouraged.

## How do I Register?

Find out now if you qualify and what you need to bring with you in the event of an emergency.

**For more information or to pre-register, contact your local emergency management office or county health department:**

Contact information for your local  
Emergency Management Office:  
[www.floridadisaster.org/disability](http://www.floridadisaster.org/disability)



# Special Needs Shelters

**What persons with special medical needs should know for disaster preparedness**

**Produced in partnership by the Florida Department of Health and Florida Division of Emergency Management**

## What is a Special Needs Shelter?

A Special Needs Shelter is a place to stay, when you have no other sheltering option. It should *only* be used as a back-up to your personal sheltering plan.

A Special Needs Shelter provides more care and supervision than a general shelter to help meet your special medical needs during an evacuation.

To the extent possible under emergency conditions, the Special Needs Shelter will provide a safe sheltering environment and basic assistance to minimize deterioration of your current level of health.

Service animals (for example, dogs or miniature horses) are allowed. Their care is the sole responsibility of the owner.

## What Should I Expect?

**A Special Needs Shelter does not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor does it provide the level of care found in a medical facility.**

A shelter may be in a school or other public facility. It may be crowded, noisy and boring. You can expect the following:

- ✓ Food and water. If you want special food or snacks, you must bring it with you. Food must be non-perishable.
- ✓ Basic medical assistance and monitoring. Complex medical equipment or care is not available in special needs shelter.
- ✓ An area for you and your caregiver to sleep.
- ✓ Back-up electricity for light and essential medical equipment.

## Am I Eligible?

The answer is “*You may be*” if:

- ✓ You have special medical needs but do not require hospitalization.
- ✓ You need assistance with basic everyday tasks.
- ✓ You have a chronic condition that requires assistance.



Check with Your Local Emergency Management Office to determine if you are eligible.

